

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force the many TV stations it owns to air an anti-Kerry documentary film days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

The Sinclair station in my area is WGGB, ABC 40, Springfield, MA. It would not even take my phone call today about this film. Instead, a recording told me to call Sinclair Broadcasting Group.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge. The law required Sinclair to serve the public interest. But Sinclair is controlling the public airwaves apparently for the purpose of electing its chosen candidate as president. This is utterly improper. It uses the public resource of the airwaves to subvert what we the people need for a functioning democracy.

It is critical that stations such as WGGB show more real people from our Pioneer Valley communities, and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show that it is not serving the public interest in the Springfield area. It also shows why we need to strengthen rules against concentrated media ownership, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.